

(Hartford) – Today **Congressman John B. Larson** presented Marion resident Leon Cornwall Doolittle with the commendation he earned over 67 years ago serving our nation during World War II. Mr. Doolittle, 92, is a combat veteran who served in the 30th Infantry Division throughout Europe, including at the Battle of the Bulge.

"It is a privilege to recognize Mr. Doolittle for his service and I am honored to present him with these long overdue medals," said Congressman Larson. "Serving in one of America's greatest military victories, Leon Doolittle and the 30th Infantry Division put their lives on the line for their country and sacrificed a great deal in the name of freedom. Mr. Doolittle's exemplary record of service is an example of the American spirit of service and freedom, and I am very pleased to honor him here today."

Drafted into the U.S. Army in April of 1944, Mr. Doolittle served in Central Europe and Belgium and was wounded in combat. Earlier this year, Congressman Larson's office was made aware that Mr. Doolittle had never received the medals he had earned for his service. Working with the Department of Defense, Congressman Larson and Mr. Doolittle were able to confirm Mr. Doolittle's eligibility and acquire each of the medals presented today.

For his service, Mr. Doolittle was presented with the:

- Purple Heart
- Bronze Star Medal
- Good Conduct Medal
- American Campaign Medal
- European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with 3 bronze service stars
- WWII Victory Medal
- Combat Infantryman Badge 1st Award
- Honorable Service Lapel Button WWII
- Marksman Badge with Rifle Bar

###